



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food and
Nutrition
Service

Mountain
Plains
Region

1244 Speer Boulevard, Suite 903
Denver, Colorado 80204-3585

Reply to
Attn of: MPSF: WC-06-15-P

FEB 03 2006

Subject: USDA Non-Discrimination Statement for WIC Materials

To: ALL WIC STATE AGENCIES

Background

During this year's State Agency WIC Program Director's meeting in Spearfish, South Dakota a Civil Rights training session was conducted by the Regional Office Civil Rights Program Director. A highlighted topic discussed was the requirement for all Programs within the Department to use the USDA global non-discrimination statement. This Policy Memorandum supersedes the e-mail dated November 22, 2005, which also provided information pertaining to this topic.

Required Action

Due to further information received from the National Civil Rights Office, FNS has been granted permission to continue with the use of our current Civil Rights statement. Although the statement will remain the same, the mailing address and telephone numbers have changed. Therefore, in addition to the Statement, the new National contact information will need to be reflected on all printed material to read as follows:

“In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability.

To file a complaint of discrimination, write to the USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC, 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TTY). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.”

If the material is too small to include the full statement, the material will at a minimum include the Statement, in print size no smaller than the text that:

“This institution is an equal opportunity provider.”

In order to avoid waste of current material, WIC State and Local Agencies may deplete current supplies. However, all new material must include the revised address and telephone numbers to file discrimination complaints.

A Civil Rights statement is not required to be imprinted on items such as cups, buttons, magnets, and pens that identify the WIC Program, when the size or configuration make it impractical. In addition, recognizing that radio and television public service announcements are generally short in duration, the nondiscrimination statement does not have to be read in its entirety. Rather, a statement such as "WIC is an equal opportunity provider" is sufficient to meet the nondiscrimination requirement. Finally, nutrition education and breastfeeding promotion and support materials that strictly provide a nutrition message with no mention of the WIC Program, are not required to contain the nondiscrimination statement.

If you have any questions you may contact Debi Glover of my staff at (303) 844-0331.

Sincerely,



For

RALPH E. ANZUR
Regional Director
Supplemental Nutrition Programs